

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-07

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FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0288

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS : PFOR GV LY

SUBJECT : QADHAFI VISIT TO GUINEA DURING 22 NOVEMBER
CELEBRATIONS

1. LIBYA'S COLONEL QADHAFI MADE STATE VISIT TO GUINEA FROM AFTERNOON NOV 21 TO EARLY MORNING NOV 25, AND WAS GUEST OF HONOR FOR CELEBRATION OF GUINEA'S MAJOR HOLIDAY, ANNIVERSARY OF NOV 22, 1970 "VICTORY OVER PORTUGUESE INVASION." THE PRINCIPAL GUINEAN HOPE FOR QADHAFI'S VISIT WAS TO OBTAIN DEVELOPMENT AID, AND WHILE NO NEW COMMITMENTS FROM LIBYA WERE ANNOUNCED DURING THE VISIT, THERE REPORTEDLY WAS SOME PROGRESS IN FIRING UP EARLIER PROMISES TO FINANCE CERTAIN PROJECTS. THE FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE AND QADHAFI'S ONE SHORT PUBLIC SPEECH MENTIONED JOINT PROJECTS AND PRACTICAL ADI AS ONE WAY TO DEMONSTRATE REVOLUTIONARY SOLIDARITY. NOV 24 WAS SPENT IN LONG WORKING SESSIONS INVOLVING TOURE, QADHAFI AND KEY MINISTERS IN THE ECONOMIC SECTOR. THE VISIT

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ENDED RATHER ABRUPTLY, REPORTEDLY A DAY OR TWO EARLIER THAN

THE GUINEASN HAD PLANNED, PROBABLY BECAUSE THE WORK WAS FINISHED, ALTHOUGH ONE ARAB DIPLOMAT HAS COMMENTED PRIVATELY THAT QADHAFI HAD MIXED REACTIONS TO WHAT HE SAW OF THE GUINEAN SITUATION, AND WAS NOT AS IMPRESSED WITH THE LOCAL REVOLUTIONARY FERVOR AS MUCH AS SOME VISITORS ARE.

2. FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE INCLUDED TWO OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST: STATEMENT THAT ARMED STRUGGLE IS THE ONLY WAY TO LIBERATE SOUTHERN AFRICA, AND A STRONG EMPHASIS ON ISLAM AS A WAY OF LIFE OFFERING SOLUTION TO ALL PROBLEMS. LOCAL PUBLIC EMPHASIS ON ISLAM IS RELATIVELY NEW PHENOMENON, WHICH BEGAN WITH MID-OCTOBER VISIT OF SHEIKH SAMAAMINI OF WORLD ISLAMIC LEAGUE.

3. IN GENERAL, QADHAFI AND TOURE SPEECHES WERE QUITE MODERATE AND WERE GENERALLY LIMITED TO REPEATING LOW-KEY GUINEAN VERSION OF 1970 EVENTS, WITH FEW DIGRESSIONS INTO WORLD POLITICS OR COMMENTARY ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION. AT A TIME WHEN THE GOG IS NEGOTIATING POSSIBLE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH FRANCE, AND WHEN THE WEST GERMAN GOV'T HAS IN EFFECT APOLOGIZED FOR PAST INTERVENTION OF WEST GERMAN CITIZEN IN GUINEA, THE TRADITIONAL DIRECT ATTACKS ON THESE COUNTRIES AND THE WEST IN GENERAL WERE VIRTUALLY ELIMINATED FROM THE 22 NOVEMBER CELEBRATION. IT ALSO APPEARS TO BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE PARTY LEADERS IN RECENT MONTHS TO TURN OUT THE CROWDS TO ATTEND MASS MEETINGS AND CEREMONIES WHERE THE RHETORIC REITERATES THE SAME SLOGANS AND ATTACKS ON THE NOW-TRADITIONAL GROUP OF IMPERIALISTS, PUPPET GOVERNMENTS AND OTHER ENEMIES.

4. THE MORE MILITANT ANTI-IMPERIALIST RHETORIC WAS LEFT TO SPOKESMEN FOR OTHER DELEGATIONS WHICH WERE PRESENT, INCLUDING THE PLO, A GROUP FROM "THE CHILEAN LEFT", AND CUBA. ONLY AFRICAN STATES HAD BEEN INVITED TO SEND SPECIAL DELEGATIONS (GUINEA-BISSAU PRIME MINISTER FRANCISCO MENDEZ, LIBERIAN DEFENSE MINISTER WILLIAMS, SIERRA LEONE FORNMIN DESMOND LUKE AND DAHOMEY'S FIRST LADY, MME KEREKOU WERE MOST NOTABLE AFRICAN VISITORS), BUT VARIOUS OTHER DELEGATIONS TURNED UP AND WERE GIVEN CHANCE TO SPEAK DURING CEREMONIES.

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